AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10, with the following paragraph:

In a Java™ distributed system, an object is referred to as being remote when its methods can be invoked from another address space, typically a Java™ virtual machine on a different computer. A remote object is described by one or more remote interfaces, which are Java™ interfaces that declare the methods of the remote object. Remote Method Invocation (RMI) is used to invoke a method of a remote interface on a remote object.   RMI is explained in, for example, the Remote Method Invocation Specification, Sun Microsystems, Inc. (1997) available at http://www.java.sun.com/products/jdk/1.2/docs/guide/rmi/spec/rmiTOC.doc.html, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1, with the following paragraph:

The byte streams contain serialized versions of Java™ objects, e.g. parameters or return values. A serialized object contains two main parts: the object data and a class descriptor. The class descriptor describes the content and format of the object data. Object serialization is explained in, for example, the Java™ Object Serialization Specification, available at

http://java.sun.com/products/jdk/1.3/docs/guide/serialization/spec/serialTOC.doc.html,

which is incorporated herein by reference.